

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-*07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 181630Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3984

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 600

C O I N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 7005

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VT TS XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S PAPAL AUDIENCE

REF: ROME 13999

1. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST ACCOUNT OF PRES BOURGUIBA
DEC 14 PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL AS DESCRIBED
BY THE VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR MIDDLE EAST. WHILE
AS YET WE HAVE NO DIRECT INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS
MEETING, LOCAL PRESS ON DEC 14 REPORTED PRES
BOURGUIBA'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN ROME FOLLOWING THIS
MEETING IN WHICH HE STATED THAT HE HAD MADE A
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO THE POPE CONCERNING JERUSALEM.
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS BOURGUIBA SUGGESTED TO THE POPE THAT AS
"A COMPROMISE" JERUSALEM REMAIN A UNITED CITY BUT
WITH A MAYORSHIP TO BE HELD PERIODICALLY BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE THREE COMMUNITIES (MUSLIM, JEWISH
AND CHRISTIAN) LIVING IN THE CITY. THE PRESIDENT
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STATED THAT THIS PROPOSAL "HAD FOUND A FAVORABLE

ECHO" AND THAT THE POPE WAS *VERY SATISFIED WITH IT".

2. THE LOCAL PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT BOURGUIBA DISCUSSED WITH THE POPE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CALL ON HIM BY PRESIDENT NUMEIRI OF THE SUDAN AND HAILE SELASSIE OF ETHIOPIA. THE PRESIDENT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HAD RAISED THIS MATTER AT "HIS OWN INITIATIVE" ALTHOUGH THE IDEA HAD BEEN CLEARED BY THE LEADERS THEMSELVES WITH KING FAISAL.

3. COMMENT: CONTRADICTION BETWEEN BOURGUIBA AND VATICAN ACCOUNTS OF BOURGUIBA MEETING WITH POPE SUGGESTS EITHER VATICAN NOT TELLING US EVERYTHING OR BOURGUIBA IS EMBROIDERING.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, VT, TS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005